

ROUTING

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday 5 April 1978

CG NIDC 78/079C

**NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION**

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, 5 April 1978.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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PHILIPPINES: Election Campaign Ends

25X1 [] //The campaign for the Philippine national assembly election on Friday ends today with President Marcos' slate of candidates guaranteed victory in regional contests and the Philippine leader assured of an overwhelming majority in the new 200-seat parliament.//

25X1 [] //The only real contest is for the 21 seats at stake in metropolitan Manila. Here, the opposition, led by imprisoned former Senator Benigno Aquino, has mounted a vigorous challenge to the pro-Marcos slate, which is headed by Imelda Marcos. []

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25X1 [] //Marcos probably hoped that, by allowing Aquino to run, he could demonstrate to his critics at home and abroad that the opposition had an opportunity to take part in the election. Government attempts to discredit Aquino by alleging CIA and Communist connections have backfired, however, and Marcos probably realizes that Aquino, by winning a seat, would not only score a tactical victory but would enhance his role as a symbol of resistance to Marcos' martial-law rule.//

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25X1 [] //The national assembly will have only advisory legislative powers; its primary task will be to draw up rules governing the establishment of a permanent legislature. The amended 1973 Philippine constitution confers ultimate legislative authority on Marcos until martial law is lifted--a move only he can make. []

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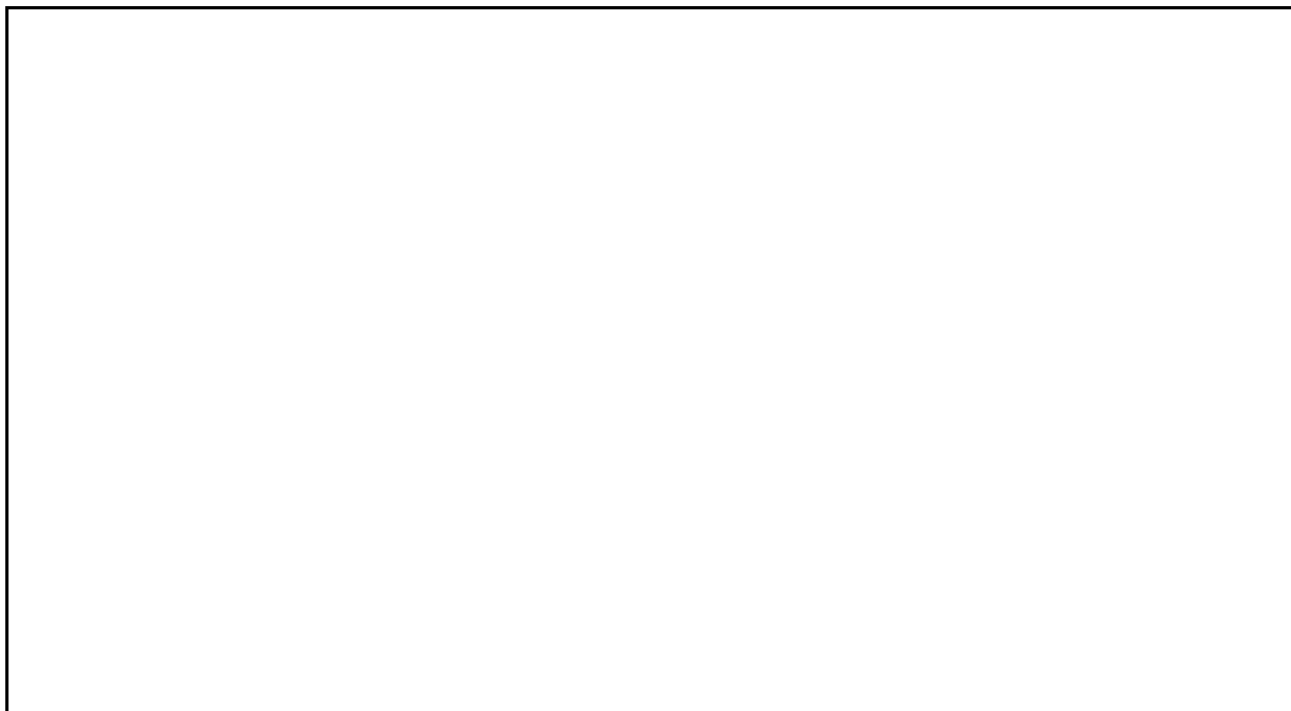
USSR-DJIBOUTI: Diplomatic Relations

- 25X1 [] *The USSR's decision to establish diplomatic relations with Djibouti at the ambassadorial level--announced yesterday--enhances Moscow's ability to play a role in the Ethiopian-Somali rivalry for control of the former French colony.*
- 25X1 [] Moscow may hope that its official presence in Djibouti will discourage either Ethiopia or Somalia from pressing its claim to Djibouti and at the same time further its own ambitions to be the dominant foreign power in the area.
- 25X1 [] The Djibouti Government, even though dominated by pro-Somali Issa politicians, has tried to pursue an even-handed foreign policy since it gained independence last June. President Gouled may have seized the opportunity to establish relations with the USSR both to demonstrate his independence from Somalia and to gain access to badly needed Soviet economic assistance.
- 25X1 [] Somalia, for its part, will almost certainly perceive Moscow's effort to gain a diplomatic foothold in Djibouti as a move intended to facilitate Ethiopian hegemony over the area.

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BRIEF

Canada

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[REDACTED] //The Canadian Government has increased domestic interest rates and negotiated new credits abroad in an effort to support the Canadian dollar. On Monday, the Canadian dollar fell to a 45-year low of 87.96 cents to the US dollar, despite continued heavy intervention by the Bank of Canada and substantial foreign borrowing by the government to bolster exchange reserves.//

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[REDACTED] //Pressure on the Canadian dollar intensified this week following the announcement that Canada's seasonally adjusted trade surplus fell in February for the second straight month. Inflationary pressures are also contributing to the dollar's weakness.//

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[redacted] //Finance Minister Chretien tomorrow will announce the government's budget schedule for the next fiscal year, removing some uncertainty over the government's fiscal plans. Prime Minister Trudeau has been under attack from opposition spokesmen over the dismal state of the economy. The results of Canada's latest efforts to bolster the dollar as well as its progress in reducing unemployment and inflation rates will figure in any decision to call an election later this spring.

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[redacted]

[redacted]